

how to  
CONSERVE  
ELECTRICITY  
in  
RETAIL  
STORES

CA 20N  
EP  
- 2010

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Retail stores in Ontario use about 35% of the electrical energy consumed by all commercial facilities. Much of this energy is used inefficiently and wastefully.

Electricity use can be reduced in almost all cases without adversely affecting sales and as a consequence you save energy and money.

Although retail stores vary greatly in size, use and occupancy, the energy conservation suggestions in this folder will apply to most stores.

## Heating

- Lower thermostat setting during non-working hours.
- Lower thermostat setting in non-occupied areas (corridors, washrooms, basements, storage areas, lobbies).
- Have heating system checked regularly.
- Insulate exposed walls.
- Double glaze windows or storm windows.
- Check caulking around all doors and windows (recaulk if necessary).
- Keep air grills and heat transfer devices clean.

## Cooling

- Turn off cooling in unoccupied areas.
- Raise thermostat setting.
- Turn cooling equipment off one hour before closing the store. The cooling effect will remain in the store for this period.
- Close drapes or blinds on windows exposed to sunlight.
- Keep filters clean.
- Schedule regular preventative maintenance checks for cooling equipment.
- Use outside air for cooling whenever possible.
- Reduce lighting loads whenever possible. This will reduce cooling loads.

## Hot Water

- Install/repair insulation around pipes.
- Repair leaking taps.
- Lower hot water temperature to 49°C (120°F).
- Insulate hot-water heaters.

## Lighting

- Turn off unnecessary lights.
- Use fluorescent lamps where possible, (2-40 watt fluorescent lamps produce 5360 lumens (units of light) where 1-100 watt incandescent lamp produces only 1740 lumens).
- Reduce or eliminate decorative lighting inside and outside.
- Where practical, lower wattage of lighting.
- Maintain a regular fixture/lamp cleaning schedule.
- After hours, reduce or turn off lighting not required for safety and security.
- Use time clocks for night lighting and outdoor signs to eliminate manual operations.
- Replace 40 watt fluorescent lamps with 35 watt energy saving lamps (consult with your electrical contractor).
- Design lighting for expected activity. Task lighting will help reduce overall lighting levels.
- Use lighter colour surfaces.

## Involvement

- Obtain commitment from management
- Form an "Energy Management" committee
- Set goals and budget
- Ascertain priorities and assign responsibilities
- Record progress, using monthly utility costs (compare with previous)
- Keep all the staff advised of results

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